

The Volunteer

VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2015

INDIANA DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE

Celebrate with Cake-Kick Off



Nov 5, 2015 4:00P.M.-7:00P.M.
Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center



In 2016, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore celebrates 50 years and the National Park Service turns 100. Our partners are coming to help celebrate, and we hope you will come too!

There are so many programs and activities for the coming year, we made a special calendar. You can pick yours up at the "Cake Off".



Hope to see you there!

Valparaiso University Freshman Cut Out at Central Beach



On August 29, 2015, freshman from Valparaiso University came out to the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Central Beach parking lot for a day of park stewardship and fun. Spirits were high; for most of the students this day marked the beginning of their college career.

The early morning saw rain but it did not hinder

the volunteers' ability or will to restore the surrounding savanna. A rousing introduction by Ted Winterfeld informed and enriched the students in their understanding of the impact they were about to make. Discussions and jests continued throughout the course of combat with the non-native flora. The invaders were swiftly defeated. Three hours of work resulted in a drastic change to the savanna floor and saved several trees that were being choked by vines. Invasive species that were removed include: Oriental Bittersweet, Multiflora Rose, Burning Bush, and Privet.

In only a few hours this group of volunteers achieved a goal that would have taken a small team of park employees a month to accomplish. At the end of the day a much deserved lunch was enjoyed before the students headed off to their next activity. Thank you students for making a difference and deciding to get up, get out, and find your park!



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For more volunteer opportunities contact:

grant_smith@partner.nps.gov and hunter_moseley@partner.nps.gov





Mnoke Prairie Needs Your Help

Nov 14 9:00- Noon



We're very excited to continue our stewardship work at Mnoke Prairie. Through grant funding over the last 15 years, This mesic prairie, has been restored to nearly pristine condition. Unfortunately the funding has dried up and volunteers are desperately needed to continue the work of many dedicated biologists. Through coordination with the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, we will soon reach out to local universities to develop a spring service-learning internship for biology majors. They will learn about native seed propagation, plant identification, wildfire, and invasive species removal while being exposed to an exciting career field, and you can too!

We could also use a hand from dedicated members of the community to take care of this fragile ecosystem. **If you are interested in volunteering at Mnoke Prairie contact Centennial Volunteer Ambassador Hunter Moseley at hunter_moseley@partner.nps.gov for more information.** Volunteering at the Mnoke Prairie is a great way to meet new people, exercise, go bird watching, discover new plants, and spend time enjoying the great outdoors. So get up, get out, and find your park by volunteering at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore!



Site and Trail Corps MEET-up!

November 7 2:00pm Dune Ridge Trail

Enjoy hiking the trails at INDU? Do you have a favorite trail you like to hike on a regular basis? Want to share what you see with other INDU trail lovers and the INDU staff?

Join Site and Trail Corps! Meet other members of the corps and get an introduction to the program. It really is fun! Contact

Hunter_Moseley@partner.nps.gov and let him know you are coming!



Miller Woods Stewardship Day

Oct 24 9:00-Noon Miller Woods

Where eastern hardwood forests meet western tall grass prairies, there is a unique and endangered ecosystem; the black oak savanna. Oak savannas are sparsely treed grasslands where fire-resistant oaks stand among prairie plants. In the Midwest, it is estimated that less than 0.02% of high quality oak savanna habitat remains.

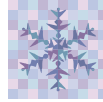
Help restore this globally significant treasure! Come dressed for the weather, wear a long sleeved shirt, long pants and closed toe shoes. We will provide tools and safety equipment.



**It has been another amazing year for volunteer efforts at Indiana Dunes
National Lakeshore**



**Maple Sugar Time,
Stewardship Days
Waking the Sugar Bush**



Troop 908 Clearing tent pads at Good Fellow

**National Park Week, Put the Sand
Back on the Beach, Stewardship
Days, Shedd Aquarium
Stewardship, Porter-Starke
Stewardship, Heritage Garden**

Farmers, National Park Conservation Association



Artist in Residence



**Parkids, Boys and Girls Club,
Site and Trails Corps,
Stewardship Days, Artist in
Residence, Shedd GLAD
Stewards, Boys and Girls Club,
Dunes Learning Center Get
Outdoors Day, Trails & Rails**



**Porter County United
Way Day of Caring,
Valparaiso University
Day of Caring, Valparaiso University
Freshmen Welcome!, Mt Carmel High
School Stewardship, Canoemobile**



Be SURE your hours count!!! Get your volunteer FY 15 (Oct. 2014 to Sept. 2015) hours to your volunteer supervisor no later than Oct 31, so we can get them reported to Washington.



